

Zeppelins Raid London; One Shot Down at Somme

Returning Aircraft, Three Miles Above Battlefield, Hit by French Gunners

Crew of Thirty Killed

Attack on England Under Cover of Darkness First Since November 27

London, March 17.—Another Zeppelin raid on London, the first since November 27, ended last night in disaster for the German airships. Apparently while the raiders were returning to their base, one of them, flying at a height of more than two miles over the Somme battlefield in France, was sighted by anti-aircraft batteries and was brought down to earth with a shock that split it in two.

The attack on London, details of which are withheld, caused little or no excitement, even among returning theatergoers. Favored by a dark and moonless night, the Zeppelins first appeared over the southeastern counties of England, where twenty-seven bombs are reported to have been dropped on the rural districts, without inflicting much damage. The raiders are believed to have reached London just before midnight.

Sighted Near the Somme
Returning homeward, the great airship passed fairly close to Paris about 11:30 p.m. At that time five or six Zeppelins were seen flying over the French capital, extinguishing lights and warning the residents by blowing whistles. At 5 o'clock it was announced that all danger was over.

Shortly before dawn French gunners near Compiègne, forty-five miles north of Paris and almost on the Somme battlefield, sighted one of the Zeppelins. The first shots from the anti-aircraft batteries reached the airship, which was nearly three miles up. It suddenly burst into flames, and a mass of wreckage fell to earth. Striking a garden wall, it broke in two, a mass of wreckage from which the burned bodies of thirty of the crew were afterward extracted.

As the airship fell, leaving a trail of fire from the blazing fragments of the envelope, several of the crew jumped out of the gondolas, all of them being rescued to death as they struck the earth. The remaining bombs in the Zeppelin were thrown out as the airship descended, most of them striking in the open fields and failing to explode. The Zeppelin was later identified as the L-59.

In aerial engagements on the West front yesterday French aviators brought down nine enemy machines. Lieutenant Guymer accounting for two, and thus bringing his total number of victories up to thirty-four, only short of the highest record of the war, that held by the late Captain Beke, of the German air service. The latter's squadron brought down its hundredth machine on Sunday, according to the Overseas News Agency, which states that sixteen Entente aeroplanes were shot down on that day.

Flier Back from Somme

Wounded American to Teach Aviators at Mineola

Lieutenant Edward A. Kelly, an American aviator, who for the last year and a half has been with the British Flying Corps, arrived yesterday on the ship to assist in instructing American fliers at Mineola. He brought with him the plans and a model of the Vickers aeroplane, the fastest machine in existence, according to Lieutenant Kelly.

His tremendous speed—almost 100 miles an hour—combined with its easy control, make it ideal for scouting purposes, he said. The engine is made from a new alloy which is much lighter than iron or steel.

Lieutenant Kelly has been wounded three times, the last time in the right leg by shrapnel while he was bringing down two German machines at the Somme. He descended inside the British lines and was taken unconscious from his machine. He is still lame and is in indefinite furlough.

Clergy Almost Unanimous

For Firm Stand on U-Boats

Of the 218 Protestant clergymen of New York City who have voted upon the patriotic resolution submitted to them by the New York Federation of Churches two weeks ago, 258 have favored all four clauses. The dissenters, for the most part, have objected to the final item, which recommends universal military training under Federal control.

The first three clauses of the resolution, which have met with almost unanimous favor, approve the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany, endorse America's acquiescence in the U-boat campaign, and place the responsibility for war, if it comes, upon German ruthlessness.

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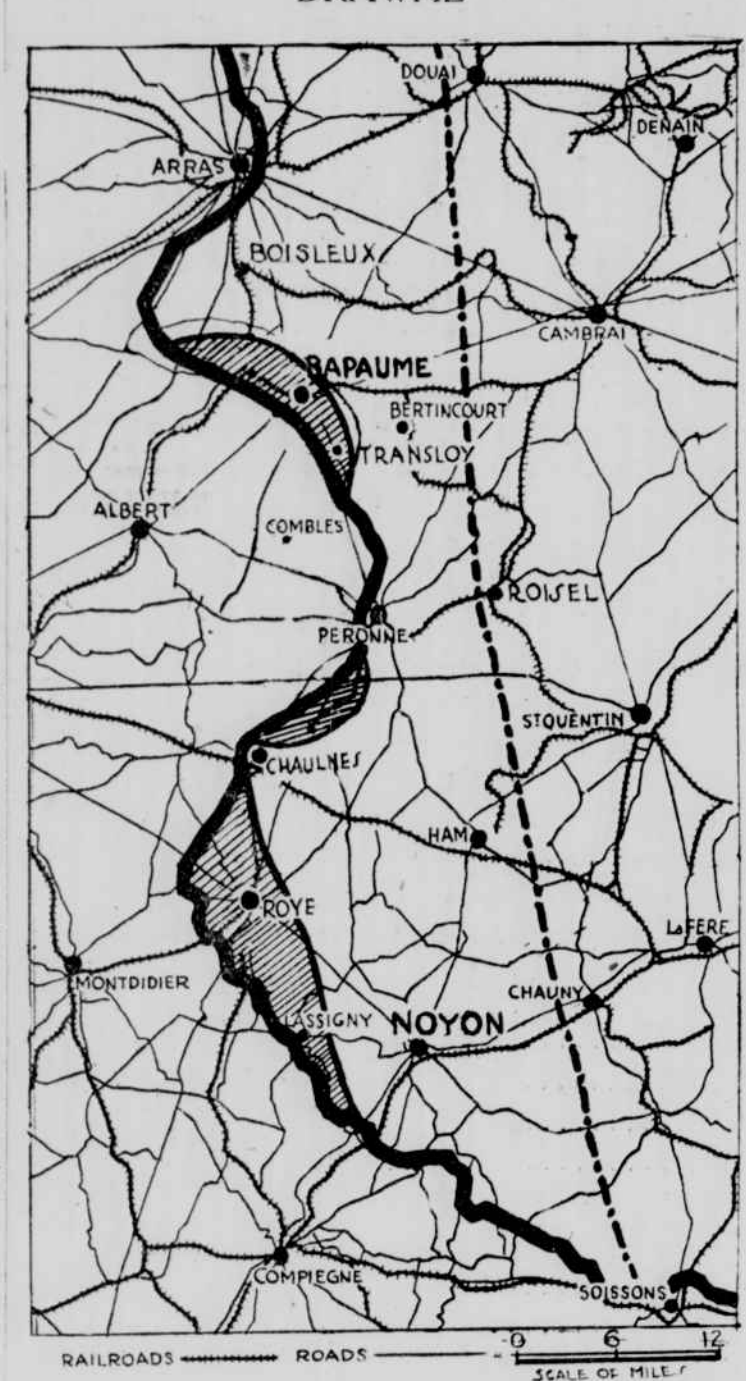
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SCENE OF GREAT GERMAN WITHDRAWAL



The German withdrawal on the Somme has now extended to the great Noyons salient, which appears to have collapsed before the swift advance of the French forces. Yesterday the Germans retired to a depth of six miles along a twenty-five mile front extending from Chaunoy southeast to beyond Assigny and swallowing that town and Royel. North of Chaunoy the British swept into half a dozen strongly fortified villages.

Simultaneously the German retreating movement north of the Ancre, where the Arras salient is rapidly being evacuated, attained its greatest proportions in some days. From Essarts, northwest of Bapaume, to Transloy, the British troops moved forward, occupying Bapaume, the German stronghold that has been their goal for eight months, and several other important villages.

It is believed the German retirement will now continue until Prince Rupprecht's troops have reached a line running from the region of Douai, east of Arras, to the Soissons sector, some seventy miles to the southeast—a line indicated on the map by the dotted line.

Haggin Art Collection To Be Sold in April

Consists Almost Exclusively of Works of Modern Masters

The American Art Association announces that, in accordance with instructions from L. T. Haggin, Margaret C. Haggin, Allan McCulloch and H. Esk. Moller, executors, they will dispose of the valuable pictures collected by the late James B. Haggin. The public sale, which will take place early in April, will be held in the grand ballroom of the Plaza, previous to which the collection will be exhibited at the American Art Galleries, Madison Square South.

Mr. Haggin's collection consists almost exclusively of works of foreign painters, the majority being modern masters. It includes an important example by Charles Francis Daubigny, entitled "On the French Coast"; "Nymphs and Cupids," by Diaz; an important work by Felix Ziem, "The Fete at Venice," from the Charles A. Dana collection; "Arabian Cavaliers," by Adolf Schreyer; Alma Tadema's "Triumphal Entry of Van Tassel after the Battle of the Golden Spurs," by Marccke's "Landscape and Cattle," Troyon's "White Cow," Vibert's "Entertainment," "The Festival," by J. B. Pynck; "A Lady of the Court of Louis XVI," attributed to Antoine Vestier; a number of portraits, several landscapes of the Dutch School and two fine portraits by Pierre Mignard.

Among the paintings of the early English, early French and Dutch schools are "Edge of the Commons," by Gainborough, from the William H. Fuller collection; "The Festival," by J. B. Pynck; "A Lady of the Court of Louis XVI," attributed to Antoine Vestier; a number of portraits, several landscapes of the Dutch School and two fine portraits by Pierre Mignard.

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Laconia Survivor Arrives

Says Torpedo's Thud Sounded Like Blast in Subway

Arthur T. Kirby, an attorney, of Bainbridge, N. Y., the first survivor of the Laconia to arrive in New York, came here yesterday on the White Star liner Lapland.

"I was going abroad on some law business," said Mr. Kirby, "and was seated in the music room when the first torpedo hit us. It was nothing but a thud, similar to a blast in the New York subway. We all instantly realized we had been hit, but for a moment no one spoke. Then a woman laughed. Her laugh sounded rather hollow."

"I went below to get my heavy overcoat. A few minutes later a second torpedo struck. The Laconia began to list heavily and I had considerable difficulty in reaching the deck. There was no confusion. I got into the next to the last boat to leave the ship. As we were pulling away I saw Captain Irvine and the first mate running aft, and as there were no more boats they dived overboard and swam to a boat floating near by. A patrol boat picked us up and brought us into Queenstown."

Singer Wins New Fame

Schumann-Heink First to Ride in Grove on Sunday

The Rev. Dr. A. E. Ballard, president of the Camp Meeting Association, which owns and runs Ocean Grove, N. J., has made an announcement which gives new lustre to the fame of Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink. He revealed the fact that she was the only individual who ever rode through Ocean Grove on Sunday.

One of the strict rules of the association prohibits vehicles of any kind from profaning the streets of Ocean Grove on the Sabbath. Last summer Mme. Schumann-Heink sang there at a children's day service. She had a troublesome foot and couldn't walk, so the association gave her special permission to ride to church in an automobile.

U. S. Sending Consuls Back to Mexican Posts

Washington, March 17.—American consular officers, withdrawn from Mexico many months ago, when the border situation was acute, have been ordered back to their districts, the State Department announced today.

For the present, the policy of denying passports to Americans wishing to return to Mexico will be continued, no change being contemplated until the consuls have reported on conditions. In the meantime, Americans are advised by the State Department not to return to Mexico.

John R. Silliman will return to Guadalajara, his old post; Thomas Dickinson goes to San Luis Potosi, as vice-consul; Randolph Robertson, to Monterey, as vice-consul; Thomas D. Rowman, to Frontera, as consul, and William E. Chapman, to Mazatlan, as consul.

U. S. Rejection of Embargo Plan Reaches Mexico

Mexico City, March 17.—Candido Aguilar, the Mexican Foreign Minister, received today the answer of the United States government declining the proposal of Mexico that the neutral nations unite in an effort to bring about peace in Europe, or, as an alternative, place an embargo on shipments to the belligerents, but the text of the note was not published pending its consideration by President-elect Carranza, to whom Señor Aguilar transmitted it. Consular representatives of the United States have been ordered to San Luis Potosi, Guadalajara, Frontera, Monterey and other principal cities.

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